

CJ Galdes

From: Terrence Nelson <tnelson@hnjh.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 12:06 AM
To: The Office of Senator Marleau; The Office of Senator Robertson; SenJEmmons; The Office of Senator Hune; The Office of Senator Jones; The Office of Senator Schuitmaker; The Office of Senator Warren; The Office of Senator Johnson; The Office of Senator Ananich
Cc: Tony Mosesso; Kendra Everett
Subject: Tom Casperson - SB Bill 995

Honored Members of the Health Policy Committee:

As a hospital supervisor, Certified trauma nurse, EMS Paramedic volunteer, and resident of the Upper Peninsula, I totally support this bill and believe that it would provide a great benefit for the residents of this area for minimal effort and cost.

As healthcare providers in a very rural community with a critical access hospital and 100 miles from the nearest trauma center, we see many sick and seriously injured patients (if not more than urban areas proportionately) but also have considerably less resources (paramedics and EMT's) than are needed to provide necessary care for all their pre-hospital emergency medical needs.

This is due in part to the exodus from rural areas by younger residents in search of better jobs and benefits, an aging retirement population, and the need to travel farther distances to and from work for those who make an effort to volunteer for EMS services. Also, certain times of the day, extreme weather and seasons also impact the availability of resources.

We do have some very well trained and dedicated EMS professionals in the UP but not necessarily enough to equip and staff every emergency response unit with the highest level of advanced life support for each and every call. Also, due to the distances involved in the UP to both critical access and trauma centers, backup support from other agencies is not always an option to count upon.

This bill would allow us to provide the highest level of care available at the time of need. Even though we might not be able to provide 100% advanced life support coverage all the time, 50 – 75% coverage for those in need (i.e., trauma, cardiac, strokes, etc.) would be far superior to what we now face. The alternative will be not having ANY volunteer advanced life support services available at any time if we cannot quickly resolve our current manpower availability situation!

Thank-you for considering my opinion,

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